

# Books will go to soldiers

By **JULIE R. SMITH**

*juliesmith@summervillejournalscene.com*

When you like to read but have no books... it's a bad feeling.

That's why Summerville bookstore owners Tim and Tina McDuffie have started Operation Books for Our Troops, a project designed to get books into the hands of soldiers stationed overseas.

The couple owns Here Be Books, a used bookstore at 4650 Ladson Road, Suite I, at the corner of Dorchester Road.

"This is our way of supporting our troops overseas," Tina said. "We want to remind them how much they are loved and appreciated."

Tim was in the United States Navy for 20 years, and the couple was often separated. Tina often sent him books to read. "He said the best part of the day was mail call, and he loved getting the books," she said. "He said it always made his day." Now they want to do that for others stationed overseas in the War Against Terror.

The project is free, and simple. Here's how it works:

People go to the bookstore and fill out a brief form with the name and APO or FPO address of a service member stationed overseas. Jot down the recipient's reading preferences, if possible.

"Then we add the service member's name to a list. Each week we'll send a box of books to be read and shared with friends to the next person(s) on the list,"

See **BOOKS** | Page 7A

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

## BOOKS

from page 1A

she explained.

Each box holds approximately 17 books and will include a variety of genres. "If we're provided with information about the service member's reading preferences, we do our best to include something that matches that criteria," Tina said.

"Think of them as care packages for the mind," she added.

The McDuffies not only supply the books, they'll pay shipping

charges. "We have a lot of duplicates and extra books, and we were thinking of what to do with them when this idea came up," Tina said. "We wanted to make things brighter for our troops."

Donations of boxes, however, will be accepted. "They need to be book-sized, like the boxes from amazon.com," she said.

Since packages can no longer be sent to "Any Service Member," the McDuffies are relying on the public to provide soldiers' names and addresses. "We want to get the word out. We need those addresses," Tina McDuffie said.



Tim and Tina McDuffie want to send books to troops. Staff photo by D.H. Smith